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Approved for Release
Date **11 NOV 1988**

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

Washington, D.C. 20505

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant Vice Director for Collection
Management
Department of Defense
Principal Advisor for Prisoner of War
and Missing in Action Affairs
(International Security Affairs)
Office of the Secretary of Defense
Director, Vietnam, Laos and Kampuchea
Bureau of East Asia and Pacific Affairs
Department of State

SUBJECT: Serial file of a U.S. Military Officer Near
Bang Mu, Binh Tri Thien Province

Attached as of possible interest to you is a report

the body of a U.S. Military Officer of a unit lost in
what is now designated Binh Tri Thien Province, North Vietnam
of Vietnam.

Deputy Director for Operations

cc: DCI
DPC
EACB DIR

STAT/IAF
STATE/IAF
D/MU

DDI
DIA
RIG/IAF

NSA
SEC

Attachment: Report as stated

SUBJECT: Serial file of a U.S. Military Officer Most Recent
of Binh Tri Thien Province

TEXT: 1. A former Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) sergeant first class reported that in mid July 1968 he

located the body of a U.S. Military Officer on the northern edge of a sandy hill, designated Hill A-1, near Hong Ha on what is now known as Binh Tri Thien Province, Socialist Republic of Vietnam (SRV). The sergeant stated that the American officer wore a fatigue uniform with the rank insignia of an ARVN second lieutenant. In addition to burying the American officer, the squad also buried five ARVN personnel found in the same location. The first squad, First Ranger Platoon, First Ranger Company, 39th Ranger Battalion, First ARVN Ranger Group, ARVN I Corps, was on its way back to its parent unit based on Hill A-1 after three days of reconnaissance patrol when the unit discovered the dead American officer and five ARVN personnel. Comments: From April to July 1968, the ARVN I Corps Command launched an operation to retake Hill A-1 and Hill 40 in the Bong (unlocated), which had been overrun by Vietnamese forces during the Tet Offensive of 1968. This operation involved the ARVN 39th Ranger Battalion, First Infantry Battalion of the First Division, ARVN I Corps Forces, the Third ARVN Marine Battalion and the Fourth ARVN Airborne Battalion. The sergeant reported that there was also a U.S. unit involved in this operation, but he was not sure of the unit's designation. After July 1968, Hill A-1 was turned over to the First ARVN Infantry Battalion, First Division, I Corps Forces. (Headquarters Comment: The grave site is in former Binh Tri Thien District, Binh Tri Thien Province, which the SRV has renamed Binh Tri Thien District, Binh Tri Thien Province.)

2. The sergeant said the grave site of the American officer was located at the northeastern edge of Hill A-1 about 2.5 kilometers (km) from the hill top. To reach Hill A-1, travel south on National Route One from the Hong Ha River, at the Binh Tri Thien Demarcation Line, for about 15 km. Turn east on a dirt road and continue to the "Don Hui" bridge. The distance from National Route One to Don Hui bridge is about 15 km. Continue another three km on the dirt road to arrive at the top of Hill A-1.

